

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>
Subject: [1754] 30m propagation
Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950715184502.13823E-100000@ume>

Last night around 11 pm local time, in between thunderboomers gave a listen.....nothin. Checked out 10.000 and could clearly hear WWV and WWVH. So, I decided to call CQ with my 0.95 watts. To my surprise, a signal, just above the noise replies after my first call. I gave AA0XI/qrp at 449 (3 watts). He gave me a 539. (Less QRN at his QTH?) His QTH was Aurora, Colorado. Finished qso and took another listen.....nothin. I bet I could have worked a KH6 if there would have been one on!

You guys in W1 and W4 land.....what time is sundown these days?

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From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: [1757] Diamonds and rust
Message-ID: <199507160359.WAA00970@chuck.dallas.sgi.com>

Some days are diamonds and some days are rust.
Pen pal of mine, J. Baez.

Anyway, today I spent cleaning out years of dust and spiders from the garage. Wow you can collect some neat stuff. Found stuff that I knew I had and found stuff that I had no idea where it came from. :-)

So after a day in the heat of the garage I decided it was time to play.

Preston Douglas was kind enough to ship me his W6EMT NW8020 kit for 40M. It is a relatively large and spacious board with no attempt to tighten up the layout and make the parts "cozy" as Dave Benson, NN1G does in his stuff. I think we can get the board

layout in 2/3 the area. Danny Stevig and Roy went with the larger IF cans 'cuz I know that in the early NN1Gs, the MXMs and other rigs a lot of people didn't like the smaller IF cans. The builders have trouble taking out the internal cap and many seem to break the continuity between the terminals and that is not good. The PC board is 5"x5" (127mm x 127mm for our friends outside of the USofA). I will be running comparisons with the other rigs this week as time permits. Maybe try for Paul's beacon on Sunday.

In the garage I found my Calcomp Digitizer and have set it up to digitize the board layout and I've written a plot routine to generate the same board. I'll then reduce the size to see how much space we can save. I want to put the optional audio filter on the same board also. I've sent email to Roy's address as shown in the qrp-l list, but from my system it doesn't get to him. So Roy, if you're reading this please send me email. My guess is that Danny of Dan's Small Parts got the boards from FAR Circuits. I'll make a .ps file and put on ftp.LEHIGH.EDU as soon as I can, but don't rush me please. I have to get Roy's permission also.

The point of all this. If you own a NW8020 kit on any band send me email of what mods you like or don't like. I'd like to get a layout that everyone might be happy with and go from there. The IF is going to move from 10.0000MHz on 40M. :-)) I've got to find out from Roy what the deal is that he has going.

Ideas I'm working with. 1. Mount all the resistors and diodes vertically on end. 2. Go to the smaller IF cans. 3. Reduce the background hiss. 4. Go to varactor tuning. 5. Audio filter on the board.

It's basically Roy's design but with some tweeking.

After looking at the CMOS III in the latest QST, I've scrapped the K5FO keyer project. Well, I've gotta go and start from scratch. Jeff and Bud (I'll call Jeff Russell, KC0Q, and Bud Southard,

N0II, by their first names even though I have never met them.) have solved the problem of power drain and memory retention by using EEPROM, thus you can now power off the CMOS III and upon power up still have the final state and memory that you had before you turned it off. Very clever those guys in IA. Cute enclosure for the one shown in QST Aug 1995 issue. I've sent in my \$58. I'm sure they (Idiom Press) will probably be swamped with orders. Idiom Press, Box 1025, Geyserville, CA 95441. \$58 US plus \$3 for shipping in the USofA and \$5 for surface-mail foreign orders.

Then there is the PIC keyer that Wayne Burdick came up with that includes a counter with audio readout. So many toys and so little time. :-)

On Wayne's comments on weak signal reception. I'll have to do some testing but I think that I can copy a weak signal with a wider filter than with a narrow one. The reason (I think) is that the noise on both sides of the desired signal is random and tends more to cancel with the wider spectrum input. As I narrow the filter then I eliminate that and the only noise that gets through is within the narrow range of what I'm try to get. Now before anyone goes and starts the flame wars you'll claim that the noise near the signal gets through in either case, but it's the tendency of the other random noise to cancel it out that helps. It's a gut feeling and I'll take the time to check it out. It may be that I am wierd in some way that allows me to do this.

It's like the experiment that I bring up once in a while. Take a very small mono earphone, like used in cheap AM radios and connect to a high pitched audio generator. Move the earphone at 1/2 an arm lengths back and forth in fron of you and see if the tone disappears exactly at center. Let me know what you get.

One of the things that I tend to do when doing QRP work on the air is chase after the weaker signals. They are usually QRP stations too and are being ignored by everyone else. Hopefully they have a good receiver also. And antenna. And ears and patience. I always thank every station for their work 'cuz it is work a lot of the time to copy a QRP signal.

I went two weeks without an office and still a couple of irritating details to get ironed out and maybe I can start to contribute something to the group. Maybe even get on the air too. :-)

dit dit es gud dx to all

--

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: NYOUNG@nova.wright.edu
Subject: [1756] I love free concrete
Message-ID: <01HSWZG06U048X1KPQ@nova.wright.edu>

My former next-door-neighbor is a guy named Ed Collins. He moved in many years ago to the sound of beer cans popping open and raucus exchanges with some bikers from the neighborhood. The marriage didn't last long and soon enough he was out, moving into a trailer park in a nearby town. Ed and I used to sit and watch television and eat "beef lips." If you've ever read the ingredients in those spiced, pickled sausages that folks snack on with beer, you'll know why we called 'em that. Beef lips. "Hand me the beef lips, man." Counterpoint of beer cans opening.

Well, Ed got his life rearranged, met the kind of woman that he should have the first time and now lives in an apartment in the same nearby town. He drives a truck for Diamond Ready Mix. He's been doing it for 13 years now, getting up every morning before the chickens, going out the door and -- in summer weather -- spending the day in a 90-degree plus Oshkosh diesel concrete mixing truck, delivering loads. I've rode with him a couple times and it ain't no way to work if you want the easy life. Noise that would deafen

the most well-adjusted. Dust and dirt and unimaginable locations. Hot in summer. Cold in winter. Nasty all the way around. It used to get to him. But now with his daughter catching his attention (he should be an elementary teacher: he's so good with kids) and his wife working on a nursing degree, he's got other distractions.

Ed and I recently worked out a deal. Son Ian went over to Ed's digs and put his wife's computer together as it had been intended. Ian got it working and fixed it up so that Jill (Ed's wife, naturally enough) wouldn't have to remember lines of code or DOS commands to write a simple nursing paper. Of course, while Ian fixed the machine, Ed and I reminisced about beef lips and duct-taping Ian to the back of a truck. And the Fourth of July at the landfill when one of Ed's co-workers laboriously laid out a row of various bottle rockets and other incendiaries on a picnic table and lit 'em all off at once with the business end of a blow torch. In exchange for this, Ed agreed to drop the tailing load off a delivery into the hole where I'd parked the tower base hardware.

The deal went down today. I got 4000 grade reinforced, fiber-mix, enough of it to have done two towers. In fact there was load left on when we got done. It must have taken about 20 minutes, tops. In the 95-degree plus heat with the engine rumbling away.

People like Ed, they don't often get the best deals. But they're fine folks... The kind of folks we need more of.

So now the tower goes up, the neighbors get nervous and I'll have to find the rock climbin' theater student to help me put up the rest of the stuff. And have Ed over for some beef lips and beer.

73
Nils
WB8IJN &c

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: nf0r@slacc.com
Subject: [1762] Kanga US
Message-ID: <9507161208.D3555gY@slacc.com>

Does anyone have a current address for Kanga US? n8et@delphi.com bounces for me.

Also any opinions/comments on an rf sensed changeover kit now being sold by Kanga? Understand the Rev. Dobb's designed it.

Thanks de Dave, NF0R nf0r@slacc.com

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: Douglas J Renze <drenze@grind>
Subject: [1760] Mac PCB Layout software?
Message-ID: <Pine.3.05.9507160113.A13220-91000000@grind>

Is there some decent PCB layout software for the Mac out there? You know, something that would do autorouting, etc, something (preferably) freeware/shareware/inexpensive commercialware?

Doug Renze, NOYVW * drenze@isca.uiowa.edu * NOYVW @ W0IUQ.ia.usa.na
DRenze@aol.com

Hitchhiking the Infobahn.

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@bbs.abs.net (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: [1758] RS12/13 article available
Message-ID: <1995Jul16.000805.194@abs.net>

A while back I announced the availability of my article on RS12/13. It was published a while back as a two-parter in the QRP Quarterly, and from the interest on the list lately, it looks like it's time to announce it again. If interested in reading it, send me e-mail and I'll e-mail it back to you in two files. Nothing really new or unusual about working the bird, but it does contain some observations and notes from several months of work on it. And while it's not QRP, the August issue of QST had an article (I think it was in one of the columns) by someone who had worked DXCC on this bird--absolutely fascinating reading. It is NOT a trivial pursuit by any means, since the footprint of the bird is relatively limited. (Maybe one of these days I'll get around to uploading all of my old QRP Quarterly articles to an ftp site somewhere, so I don't have to keep sending out the files manually :-).)

73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

wa8mcq@bbs.abs.net

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Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ abs.net

E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@bbs.abs.net

The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA

Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995

From: Rick Zabrodski <zabrodsk@med.ucalgary.ca>

Subject: [1752] Re: A Proposal: The Weak Signal Proficiency Index

Message-ID: <Pine.SUN.3.91.950715175126.13823A-100000@ume>

On Fri, 14 Jul 1995, Bob Gobrick V01DRB/WA6ERB wrote:

> Wayne,

>

> I enjoyed reading your piece on weak signal proficiency index. As a
> little follow-up that strays from your concept of the "operator skills" a
> program that has been in existence for quite a while that helps
> categorize your "equipment skills" (i.e. receiver, antennas preamps etc)
> is the ZRO Tests that AMSAT runs periodically through the AMSAT
> satellites. Basically a command station (Andy MacAllister WA5ZIB in
> Houston) sends code groups at decreasing lower and lower power levels
> until the signal drops truly into the "space" noise. The station that
> can copy and decipher the weakest signal get's a "King of the Hill"
> certificate verifying his sensitive "ears".

>

This was one of the most exciting learning experiences for me in my ham radio career. I was heavily involved into Oscar 13 back around 1988 thru 1990. The ZRO tests had 8 levels, each representing 3db.

It was truly a dramatic learning experience to see my "ears" improve from Z1 to eventually Z5 by increasing my yagi size, installing better coax, using a preamp at the rig, then the antenna, and finally by turning off all the electrical devices in the house!

Why did I quit? Once I had such an efficient station it was "too easy". Even worse, I became "DX" for the Europeans and especially the Japanese. (My better hearing compensated for their smaller ERP). The pileups were fun for the first year, then after seeing the hundreds of cards arriving via the bureau I rapidly lost interest! (I have had great empathy for dx stations ever since! ;-))

Dr. Rick Zabrodski BSc, MD, CCFP(E)

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From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995

From: Byron8LCZ@aol.com

Subject: [1753] Re: A Proposal: The Weak Signal Proficiency Index

Message-ID: <950715200114_33532160@aol.com>

>Another rough and ready approach in contests might be to create a
>category to reward the operator (QRP or QRO) who receives the most QRPP
>stations. That is, create a receiving category in which points are
>awarded on the basis of the power of the station you RECEIVE ... bonus
>points for receiving milliwatters. That would benefit the milliwatters
>and, perhaps, change the attitude of some who resent having to struggle
>with receiving QRP stations. Only drawback might be that it could
>attract "QRO types" into QRP contests with the resulting QRM for us all.

>Jim, VE2KN

Hi Jim,

Perhaps a new category for 5 to 15 watts output, for those new to QRP that are using a 100w rig turned down as low as it will go (10 watts) . this would encourage newbies to try QRP contesting and "get bitten by the bug" Even though they aren't really at QRP power levels. A lower power multiplier (5 for instance) would still make them competitive. 1-5 watts would still be 7, 0.1 to 1 watts would still be 10, 0 to 0.1 could be a multiplier of a kazillion.

this would eliminate all reasons to run QRO in a QRP contest. If we're all evenly matched, we don't have to make any additional changes to the rules. Of course, those with dipoles at 30 ft can't compete with ops running 60 ft towers and tri-banders either. but, that's life.

Many Icoms and Yaesu don't go below 10 watts without adjusting the ALC control. That's a good reason to buy a Kenwood TS-450, 690, 850, 950 with its dual power controls on the front panel, that go down to 5 milliwatts and are stable.

72, Byron WA8LCZ

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: cebik@UTKVVX.UTCC.UTK.EDU
Subject: [1759] Re: Diamonds and rust
Message-ID: <Pine.PMDF.3.91.950716001623.547448495H-100000@utkvx.utk.edu>

On Sun, 16 Jul 1995, chuck adams wrote:

>
> Some days are diamonds and some days are rust.
> Pen pal of mine, J. Baez.
>
> --
> Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60 adams@sgi.com

Read all the unfinished projects, and they reminded me of another line
from the song:

"You who are so good with words and at leaving things vague. . ."

Looking forward to the finished products.

-73-
LB, W4RNL

The above is explained by my second favorite saying: "Do not resist
temptation; it may not pass this way again."

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: prvalko <prvalko@Oakland.edu>
Subject: [1755] Re: QRP vs dx; QRP vs DX; qrp vs DX - I've sinned.
Message-ID: <Pine.3.89.9507152154.A25103-0100000@saturn.acs.oakland.edu>

On Fri, 14 Jul 1995, Nick Franco wrote:

> Last night I got on the air with my SW-30. I do a lot of listening
> lately. I heard a couple of CQ's and tried to no avail to make a Q.

<SNIP, nice story about working a DX station at 100w and feeling guilty>

OK... let's try a HEALTHY attitude here.

I consider myself a fairly eclectic film buff (movie fan to those of you
is Rio Lindo)

One of my top 50 (maybe top 25, depending on the day) is "Caddyshack." A

low budget mind-candy movie from the early 80s. Chevy Chase, plays a pysdo-mysical golfer, who is easily the "best" player in the country club but he never bothers to keep score. When asked, "How to you measure yourself against other men?" He replys, "With a ruler."

I have for years adopted the same, sane attitude about DX. Do I have qualifications fo DXCC? I *think* so... but there have been SO MANY DX contacts that I never filled out a log on, never sent a QSL card out to for verification, it's hard to say. QSO's with China and Albania(?) come to mind as never been logged. I remember once hearing Albania was the rarest of the rare but I worked them quite near the end of the famous DX-pedition a year or two ago, and quite by accident, they were calling cq, even.

I still find it more THRILLING to work California on 40M at 750mw than just about anything else. And I'll take that over a 59QSLQRZ DX contact any day.

73 =paul= wb8zjl

From qrp-1@lehigh.edu Sun Jul 16 19:02:00 1995
From: brian.carling@acenet.com (Brian Carling)
Subject: [1761] Re: WV 40 M Beacon
Message-ID: <2a6.35876.500@acenet.com>

From: brian.carling@acenet.com

Faint beeps heard here in MD under the S-9 QRM from Canadian SSB stations up to their usual mischief in the US CW segment! This at 1240 UTC Sunday.

AA> My beacon will be running Sunday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EDT. Freq will
AA>be 7057 KHz with 500 microwatts output. Beacon msg will be as follows:
AA> VVV VVV VVV 500uW <codeword> de AA4XX/B
AA> The antenna used for this trial will be a simple inverted vee up 50
AA>feet. Y'all come join in the fun! All signal reports are much appreciated.

AA>Paul/QRP

I think that is not /QRP, but rather /QRPppp !
I'll keep trying!

From Gaithersburg, MD

72.9 de AF4K
brian.carling@acenet.com

SLMR 2.1a Ban all skull-drilling, brain sucking abortions!!